

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed H.J. Res. 123, Further Continuing Appropriations Act.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S7897–S7935

Measures Introduced: Ten bills and seven resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2204–2213, S.J. Res. 50, and S. Res. 350–355. **Pages S7929–30**

Measures Reported:

S. Res. 150, recognizing threats to freedom of the press and expression around the world and reaffirming freedom of the press as a priority in efforts of the United States Government to promote democracy and good governance.

S. 1901, to require global economic and political pressure to support diplomatic denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, including through the imposition of sanctions with respect to the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and any enablers of the activities of that Government, and to reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S7929**

Measures Passed:

Further Continuing Appropriations Act: By 81 yeas to 14 nays (Vote No. 311), Senate passed H.J. Res. 123, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2018. **Pages S7923–25**

State of Mississippi Bicentennial: Senate agreed to S. Res. 351, recognizing the bicentennial of the State of Mississippi on December 10, 2017. **Page S7935**

National Nurse-Managed Health Clinic Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 352, designating the week of December 9, 2017, as “National Nurse-Managed Health Clinic Week”. **Page S7935**

Wreaths Across America Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 353, designating December 16, 2017, as “Wreaths Across America Day”. **Page S7935**

House Messages:

Tax Cuts and Jobs Act: Pursuant to the order of Wednesday, December 6, 2017, on H.R. 1, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to titles II and V of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018, the Chair was authorized to appoint the following conferees on the part of the Senate: Senators Hatch, Enzi, Murkowski, Cornyn, Thune, Portman, Scott, Toomey, Wyden, Sanders, Murray, Cantwell, Stabenow, Menendez, and Carper. **Page S7925**

Grasz Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Leonard Steven Grasz, of Nebraska, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit. **Page S7925**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, December 7, 2017, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, December 11, 2017. **Page S7925**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S7925**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 4 p.m., on Monday, December 11, 2017, Senate resume consideration of the nomination. **Page S7935**

Willett Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Don R. Willett, of Texas, to be a Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. **Page S7925**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Leonard Steven Grasz, of Nebraska, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit. **Page S7925**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S7925**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S7925**

Ho Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of James C. Ho, of Texas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit. **Pages S7925–26**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Don R. Willett, of Texas, to be a Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. **Page S7926**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S7925**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S7926**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXII, the cloture motions filed during today's session ripen at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, December 11, 2017. **Page S7926**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 61 yeas to 38 nays (Vote No. EX. 310), Joseph Balash, of Alaska, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior. **Pages S7905–09, S7935**

Susan Parker Bodine, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. **Pages S7909, S7935**

Messages from the House: **Page S7927**

Measures Referred: **Page S7927**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S7927**

Executive Communications: **Pages S7927–28**

Petitions and Memorials: **Page S7929**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S7929**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page S7930**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S7930–34**

Additional Statements: **Pages S7926–27**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S7934–35**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S7935**

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—311) **Pages S7909, S7925**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:21 p.m., until 4 p.m. on Monday, December 11, 2017. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S7935.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

DOD ACQUISITION REFORM

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine Department of Defense acquisition reform efforts, after receiving testimony from former Representative Heather A. Wilson, Secretary of the Air Force, Mark T. Esper, Secretary of the Army, Ellen M. Lord, Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, and James F. Geurts, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition, all of the Department of Defense.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Finance: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Kevin K. McAleenan, of Hawaii, to be Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security.

21ST CENTURY CURES ACT IMPLEMENTATION

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine implementation of the 21st Century Cures Act, focusing on progress and the path forward for medical innovation, after receiving testimony from Francis S. Collins, Director, National Institutes of Health, and Scott Gottlieb, Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Food and Drug Administration, both of the Department of Health and Human Services.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Leonard Steven Gras, of Nebraska, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit, James C. Ho, of Texas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, Don R. Willett, of Texas, to be a Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, Terry A. Doughty, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana, Terry Fitzgerald Moor, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Alabama, Mark Saalfeld Norris, Sr., to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee, Claria Horn Boom, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern and Western Districts of Kentucky, John